

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Flawless landing finishes successful STS-93 mission lead by Eileen Collins



Joint Open House scheduled for Sept. 25

▲ **STS-93 mission completed:** The Space Shuttle Columbia landed successfully as scheduled at 11:20 p.m. on Tuesday following a south to north approach on the KSC 33 runway. Space Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins and her crew were greeted shortly after landing by NASA leader Dan Goldin and other NASA managers at the Shuttle Landing Facility. The landing was the finish of a mission led by the space program's first female commander and marked by the release of the Chandra X-ray Observatory, the most powerful X-ray observatory ever built. After landing, Columbia was towed to Orbiter Processing Facility bay 3 for post-flight deservicing. Columbia will be prepared to be ferried in late September to Palmdale, CA, for extended modifications and structural inspections. Columbia's next scheduled mission is STS-107 targeted for launch in early 2001.

◆ An expanded version of the annual **KSC Open House** is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25. The event will give civil service and contractor employees and their families a chance to explore many areas of the Center not normally open to the public. A small group of community leaders also will be invited. The theme for this year's event, "Space Partners Opening the Gateway to the Future," reflects its widened scope. In keeping with the joint operations contract that took effect last fall, Cape Canaveral Air Station will participate fully in this year's event. Plans call for access to such CCAS landmarks as the lighthouse, Complex 34 and early missile launching complexes.

The Naval Ordnance Training Unit also is scheduled to take part in the Open House. Admission passes and brochures containing facility descriptions and other details will be mailed to employees before the day of the event.

◆ **NASA has contracted** with the National Mental Health Screening Project to offer all NASA and contractor employees on CCAS/KSC telephone access for identifying potential depression. This free and anonymous short phone survey will refer the caller to the EAP office where employees and their family members may receive additional help. Should you wish to preview the phone survey, the number is 1-800-390-6686. If you have any questions, please contact Marion Ruffing at 867-7398.

◆ **Did You Know? The Space Program** has made invaluable contributions to our quality of life. New technologies developed for space are being used 1) in the home: energy saving air conditioning, wireless alarms, water purification systems, long-distance telephone networks; 2) at the hospital: programmable pacemakers, portable heart monitors, robot-guided wheelchairs, research tools to diagnose various diseases; 3) on the farm: long-range weather forecasting, crop management and resource mapping, storm prediction; 4) in the air: advanced materials for airplanes; 5) on the road: car phones, car chassis and brake design, shock-absorbing athletic shoes. And there are many more.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

E-mail – Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov ◆ Mail Code – IDI-011 ◆ Telephone – 867-2815

Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/1999/1999.htm>